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MASSACHUSETTS ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES CELEBRATE **EARTH DAY FESTIVITIES ON THE ESPLANADE**

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs will continue its celebration of Earth Day 2003 with special exhibits at the 10th annual EarthFest, sponsored by WBOS Radio, on Saturday, April 26, from 12-5 p.m., at the MDC Hatch Shell on Boston's Charles River Esplanade. Environmental Affairs Secretary Ellen Roy Herzfelder will attend the events.

EOEA exhibits will include: An environmental quiz game with prizes; Interactive activities and educational materials on Biodiversity Days, biodiversity activities for grades K-12, and coastal management issues; educational materials on the Commonwealth's Parks and Forests; and Interactive games, information and maps of the MDC park system, specifically the Charles River.

New this year is a "KidsFest" exhibit specially designed for children. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection will demonstrate earthworm composting and recycling activities to educate children about important environmental issues.

Earth Day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement. The first Earth Day was held in 1970.

The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs urges residents to do their part to help celebrate the great strides that have been made in environmental protection over the last 30 years. One simple way to help the environment is to follow the 3 R's - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Reduce – Reduce the amount of waste that you generate. The average Massachusetts resident generates four pounds of trash daily. Purchase items with less packaging. Purchase items in bulk. Simple actions, such as using both sides of a sheet of paper or reducing junk mail, can make a big difference (visit www.mass.gov/consumer for more information).

Reuse – Reuse of products prolongs their useful life and delays their final disposal or recycling. Purchase items that can be reused and not just thrown away. Use items such as lunchboxes, cloth shopping bags, and travel coffee mugs, and be sure to donate unwanted items to charities or other reuse organizations.

Recycle - Participate in your local recycling program. Recycling saves natural resources and reduces our dependence on foreign oil. Recycling creates jobs and helps strengthen the Massachusetts economy. Be sure to close the recycling loop and purchase products made of recycled content or products that can be recycled.

For more information on how to participate in your community's recycling program and to learn more about what can be recycled, visit www.cleanup.org or call 1-800-CLEANUP.

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